MISSION 29

FOR OUR NEXT SOCIAL STUDIES PROJECT, I WANT EACH OF YOU TO INVESTIGATE AN OCCUPATION THAT INTERESTS YOU.

YOU MAY INTERVIEW YOUR PARENTS ABOUT THEIR JOBS IF YOU WISH. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MAY MAKE INQUIRIES AT A LOCAL BUSINESS.

OR PERHAPS YOUR PARENTS COULD ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THEIR FIELD.

OF COURSE, SHOULD YOU WISH TO RESEARCH EDUCATORS, I MYSELF WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

I can teach you much about our hallowed vocation.

You gonna interview your dad, boss man?

If I can get ahold of him.

GUESS I'LL TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT AND DO MY DADDY'S COMPANY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ANYA?

HM ...

YOU WILL EACH PREPARE A REPORT ABOUT YOUR CHOSEN PROFESSION AND PRESENT IT TO THE CLASS ON FRIDAY.

I GOTTA ASK SOMEONE HOW THEY GOT THEIR JOB AND WHY THEY CHOSE IT. STUFF LIKE THAT.

AND THEN I'M SUPPOSED TO WATCH THEM AT WORK.

AND... YOU'RE THINKING OF ASKING... ME?

WHAT'S A "JOB INVESTI-GATION"?

OKEY DOKEY ...

Get changed!

OKAY, ANYA. NOW I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU WHAT I DO FOR MY SECRET JOB.

OH NO! WHAT SHOULD I DO? I MEAN, MY JOB, IT'S... UH...

Wait, which job?

THAT MUST BE THE SHOPKEEPER CALLING WITH A MISSION NOW!

BRRRING

SHA

H

WHAT A DESPICABLE PIECE OF TRAITOR-OUS SCUM!

BUT I WON'T SULLY YOUR TENDER EARS WITH THE LIST OF AWFUL THINGS HE'S DONE, ANYA.

IT SEEMS THIS GENTLE-MAN IS OUR NEWEST CUSTOM-ER.

AS THE SHOPKEEPER SAYS, THIS JOB IS A NOBLE CALLING. I SHOULD BE AS PROUD AS ANY SOLDIER WHO HAS DEVOTED THEIR LIFE TO THEIR HOMELAND.

AT FIRST, I ONLY TOOK THIS JOB TO PROVIDE FOR MY BROTHER. BUT NOW I DO IT WITH PRIDE!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

OKEY DOKEY!

KEEP UP WITH ME, ANYA!

NOW, LET'S GO MEET THE NEW CUSTOMER!

Got a problem here!

I don't skulk. I'm not the one who should be ashamed.

You're so cool, Mama.

"THE SHOP" ANALYZES THE TARGET'S CAPABILITIES AND DEFENSES. ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR ME IS TO GET THE JOB DONE.

THE IDEA IS TO KILL ON SIGHT, BUT KILLING THE WRONG PERSON WOULD BE A BIG NO-NO. SO I ALWAYS STUDY THE PHOTOS CAREFULLY.

SHIK SHIK SHIK

WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE LIVES THAT ARE SAVED BY MY WORK, IT REALLY PUTS THE ZING IN MY BLADES.

WHAT MAKES THE JOB SO REWARDING IS THE FEELING THAT I'M DIGGING IN AND DOING MY PART TO CLEAN UP THE COUNTRY.

KRAK

FLIP

IN THIS LINE OF WORK, PROPERLY HONING YOUR BODY AND SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL. A GOOD UNDER-STANDING OF HUMAN ANATOMY HELPS TOO.

SHIK

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE TARGET IS A HUMAN BEING WHO, AT THE VERY LEAST, DESERVES A PAINLESS DEATH.

EEEP!

...may I have the honor of taking your life?

I am terribly sorry to ask, but...

SPLAT

There we go.

SPSHH

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU SIMPLY [redacted] THE [redacted] IN THEIR NECK, THEY'LL BE AT PEACE IN A MOMENT'S TIME.

GLURGH

OR, WITH A PRECISE STRIKE TO THE RIGHT PART OF THE BRAIN OR HEART...

THE WORK I DO AT CITY HALL IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT CAN BE A BIT DULL.

OH... YES, WELL... THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA.

I THINK MAYBE I'LL DO MY REPORT ON PAPA'S JOB...

...

ANYA, ARE YOU OKAY? WE'LL TELL LOID WE WERE AT A TOMATO FESTIVAL...

DRIP

Hmmm ...

HM? VERY WELL, THEN.

PAPA! SO, YADDA YADDA YADDA...

CHAK

HELLO.

BERLINT GENERAL HOSPITAL, TWO DAYS LATER

I TOLD THEM YOU'D BE COMING, BUT DON'T BOTHER ANYONE, OKAY?

OKEY DOKEY.

Ooh!

I WORK HERE IN THE PSYCHIATRY DEPARTMENT OF THIS HOSPITAL.

And so full of people!

IT'S HUGE.

WELL, IT IS THE CAPITAL'S MOST PROMINENT HOSPITAL.

HEY, I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING WORTH WRITING DOWN YET.

?

SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT

BUT WITH SO MANY MAJOR FIGURES IN POLITICS, INDUSTRY AND THE MILITARY USING THIS HOSPITAL, "WORKING" HERE PROVIDES PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO STEAL INTEL AND FORGE CONNECTIONS.

A PRIVATE PRACTICE CLINICIAN MIGHT HAVE MADE FOR AN EASIER COVER STORY.

THIS IS HOW INVESTY-GATORS DRESS.

IS IT, NOW?

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT, ANYWAY?

FWOOM

SNAP

OOH.

PSYCHIATRISTS DON'T GENER-ALLY WEAR LAB COATS, BUT I FIND THIS LOOKS MORE PROFESSIONAL.

WHY DID I BECOME A PSYCHIA-TRIST? HM...

UM... LET'S SEE... "WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS OCK-EWW-PAY-SHUN?"

NOW, WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MY WORK?

ANYWAY, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO TRY TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE.

THE WAR MAY BE LONG OVER, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE, VETERANS ESPECIALLY, WHO ARE STILL SUFFERING.

I KNEW IT WAS A LONG SHOT, BUT...

HUH.

WELL, EVERYONE CATCHES COLDS SOMETIMES, RIGHT?

BUT MANY PEOPLE DON'T JUST CATCH COLDS IN THEIR BODIES, THEY CATCH COLDS IN THEIR MINDS.

Consultation room 03

IN P.E. CLASS, SY-ON BOY SAID I WAS TOO DUMB TO EVEN CATCH A COLD.

HM, WELL... DO TRY TO GET ALONG WITH HIM.

WITH DESMOND BEING SUCH A RECLUSE, I THOUGHT THAT IF HE EVER GOT SICK, MAYBE WORKING AS A DOCTOR WOULD GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH HIM...

IT WAS IN COLLEGE THAT I MADE UP MY MIND...

SKRIT SKRIT

I'M ANYA. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I WORK WITH, ANYA. INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

Oh my, she's so small!

DON'T TELL ME THAT'S YOUR DAUGHTER WITH YOU?

BOW

UH, THE NEXT ONE IS "WHAT IS YOUR WORKPLACE LIKE?"

What's it like?

OH, DR. FORGER!

AWW!

OH MY GOSH! WHAT A PERFECT LITTLE PRINCESS! ♡

HERE, HAVE SOME CANDY!

And your little outfit! ♡

AWW!

LOOK AT YOU, WORKING SO HARD! ♡

What a good girl.

SHE IS SO ADOR-ABLE! ♡

ISN'T THIS LUCKY ...

DAWWW!

SKRIT SKRIT

"PAPA'S WORK-PLACE IS PARADISE."

AND THE DIRECTOR INVITED YOU TO PLAY GOLF!

IN FACT, MY FRIEND IN NEUROLOGY WAS JUST SAYING HOW MUCH HE WANTED TO SEE DR. FORGER AT OUR NEXT GET-TOGETHER!

YES, WELL... IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET ALONG.

PAPA, YOU'RE POPULAR?

YOUR FATHER IS A WONDERFUL MAN. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE EVER GOT ALONG WITHOUT HIM.

AND YET HE'S ALWAYS SO HUMBLE. EVERYONE AT THE HOSPITAL ADORES HIM.

YOUR DADDY IS AMAZING! AND ALWAYS SO POLITE AND KIND TO THE PATIENTS.

"WHAT IS PAPA LIKE WHEN HE'S AT WORK?"

Oh my!

SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT

"Him, a spy?"

YOU KEEP TAKING NOTES AT THE STRANGEST TIMES...

IT MAKES IT EASIER TO GATHER INFORMATION AND FORGE NEW CONTACTS, OF COURSE. BUT IN MY LINE OF WORK, WHAT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS BECOMING THE SORT OF PERSON THAT MAKES PEOPLE THINK, "HIM, A SPY? NO WAY!"

MAINTAINING A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF CONTACTS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

I will talk to the director ...

HM. WELL...

NOW THAT'S A FINE QUESTION, MISS!

"WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?"

IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THAT A SPY ENGAGES WITH HIS TARGET.

AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CAREFULLY OBSERVE WHAT OUR PATIENTS DO AND SAY, FREE OF ANY PRECONCEPTIONS.

HEH!

EVEN DOCTORS AREN'T WIZARDS. WE CAN'T EVER REALLY SEE WHAT'S INSIDE SOMEONE'S MIND.

THE WOUNDS THAT I TREAT ARE NOT THE KIND YOU CAN SEE. AND THAT MAKES TREATING THEM DIFFICULT.

WHY ARE YOU SMIRKING ...?

Ain't that the truth.

PAPA'S SO SERIOUS ...

THAT'S ONE OF HIS POSITIVE CHARACTER TRAITS!

I ONLY WISH WE COULD GET HIM INTO A CLINICAL SETTING WHERE HE COULD REALLY PUT THOSE SKILLS TO GOOD USE.

AWWW!

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE, DEAR?

DO YOU WANT SOME JUICE?

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A PSYCH EXAM?

AWWW!

MM! THIS CANDY'S SO GOOD!

ONCE AGAIN, THE PARALLELS TO SPYING ARE UNDENIABLE. THE ONE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IS THAT A SPY WILL INEVITABLY BETRAY HIS SUBJECT'S TRUST.

ENOUGH! THIS INTERVIEW IS OVER!

MOST IMPORTANT IS BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON TRUST. THAT IS A DELICATE AND EVEN DANGEROUS PROCESS YOU CANNOT LEARN FROM ANY MANUAL. IT'S ONE THAT REQUIRES CAREFUL ATTENTION AND—

IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU, ANYA! ♡

WELL, WE SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO WORK.

I WISH I COULD. BUT I'M SO BUSY WITH MY RESEARCH ...

WITH A PATIENT? I'M AFRAID THAT WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF MEDICAL ETHICS.

NOR AM I ABLE TO REVEAL MUCH OF MY RESEARCH TO THE PUBLIC.

I WANT TO SEE YOU WORK.

I SUPPOSE THE HARDEST PART OF MY JOB IS ACTUALLY HAVING TO KEEP IT SECONDARY TO MY MISSION.

CHAK

IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT ANYONE IS SCHEDULED TO USE THIS ONE TODAY.

WELL, AT LEAST I CAN SHOW YOU ONE OF THE CONSULTATION ROOMS.

IT'S PRETTY MUCH DONE.

And I'm bored now.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

STOP! DON'T TOUCH ANY-THING!

WHAT EXACTLY IS IT YOU THINK PSYCHIATRISTS DO?

NOW, NO MORE SILLINESS. LET'S FINISH YOUR INTERVIEW.

What cartoon did you see that in?

BUT WHERE'S THE BRAIN-FIXING MACHINE?

WHERE? WHERE?

THIS IS JUST A NORMAL ROOM.

It's not like an O.R. at all.

IT'S DESIGNED TO PUT PATIENTS AT EASE.

NOK NOK NOK

WOW...

EMERGENCY ESCAPE ROUTE?!

YOU NEED TO KEEP QUIET, ANYA.

If she turns the lever, it will open.

THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE ROUTE FOR WHEN I GO ON MISSIONS IS IN THAT BOOKCASE.

NO, I'LL WAIT TILL YOU'RE DONE WITH WORK.

SHAKE SHAKE

< >

BEING A SPY IS TOUGH.

IF YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR PROJECT, DO YOU WANT ME TO HAVE YOR PICK YOU UP?

SORRY, SOMETHING URGENT HAS COME UP.

ONE OF MY WISE COLLEAGUES ...?

SLAM

JUST DON'T TOUCH ANY-THING ELSE, OKAY?

I'll be back in ten minutes.

CHAK

OKEY DOKEY.

IT'S A SAND TABLE WE USE AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL. YOU CAN PLACE THE DOLLS AND OBJECTS IN THE SAND HOWEVER YOU LIKE. DOESN'T THAT SOUND FUN?

ALL RIGHT THEN, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY WITH THIS WHILE YOU WAIT?

NOT EVEN A LITTLE.

THANK YOU.

NATURALLY, THE AGENCY HAS A NUMBER OF ASSETS PLACED IN THE HOSPITAL TO SUPPORT MY COVER STORY.

SOME DOCUMENTS CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE *DSM* SHOULD BE ARRIVING OVER THE WEEKEND.

OF COURSE.

HAVE YOU MADE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO MY SCHEDULE?

SIGH

IT APPEARS THEY HAVE YET ANOTHER MISSION FOR ME...

CLONK

OH?! THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN ACTUALLY GET THE BETTER OF YOU?

HER UNPREDICT-ABILITY AGGRAVATES ME.

YOU TWO SEEM SO CLOSE.

DOCTOR... WAS THAT LITTLE GIRL ANYA FORGER?

OOOOH!

RRMBBB

THE TOPIC BEFORE US TODAY IS THE NEURO-SCIENCE BEHIND PARANORMAL PERCEPTION.

SKWEEN

THIS SECRET PAS-SAGE IS SO TIGHT!

SHUFF SHUFF

NOW FOR SOME REAL INVESTY-GATING!

I WOULD POSIT GHOST SIGHTINGS ARE HALLUCINA-TIONS CAUSED BY ABNORMALI-TIES IN BRAIN FUNCTION.

THIS IS ABSURD! WHAT MORE EXPLA-NATION DO YOU NEED BEYOND MYTHOMANIA?

SOME KIND OF SERIOUS MEETING?

ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF REPORTED CASES LACK AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION.

OH NO! THEY'RE GONNA DISCOVER THE SECRET PASSAGE!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

BUT THERE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANYTHING ABOVE THIS ROOM!

RATTLE RATTLE

?

TWITCH

CLANG

OOH, GHOSTS! THIS SHOULD BE EXCITING.

THAT YOU'D EVEN ENTERTAIN THE IDEA-

HUSH

THAT WAS NOTHING...

C- CLEARLY ...

?!

KREAK

KREEEAK

THIS IS REALLY BAD!

MY LEG IS STUCK! I CAN'T GET IT OUT!

OH! I HAVE TO GET BACK TOO BEFORE PAPA DOES!

ANYWAY, WE SHOULD HAVE A CONSISTENT PROCEDURE FOR WHEN THIS SORT OF THING COMES UP DURING TREATMENT—

PHEW!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ARGUING. LET'S ADJOURN THIS MEETING. Hrmph!

RGGGHHH!

NRGH

KREEEAAAAK

KREAK

KLANG

!!

RGGGHHH!

KR

EE AA AK

IT'S A GHOST! IT HAS TO BE!!

BWAH! WHAT IS THIS?! SOMETHING'S UP THERE!

A screaming baby?!

RGGGHHH!

I GOT IT OUT! NOW I NEED TO HURRY BACK!

Be-gone, spirit!

Be-gone, spirit!

SPROING

SO BABIES WHO DIE FROM MEDICAL MISTAKES REALLY DO HAUNT HOSPITALS!

SHIVER

THAT WAS REALLY REAL!

IS IT GONE...?

...

THMP THMP THMP THMP

RMBBB

FROM NOW ON, MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND WHEN PATIENTS SPEAK OF GHOSTS...

YES. LET'S.

UH... SHALL WE... RESUME OUR MEETING?

KCHK

I'D BETTER HURRY AND MAKE SOME-THING!

SHP SHP

PAPA'S BACK!

GULP

NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT SHE'S DONE WITH THAT SAND TRAY.

KCHNK

PIEW!

MADE IT.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ANALYZING THIS SAND TRAY CAN GIVE YOU A PEEK INTO SOMEONE'S SUBCONSCIOUS MIND.

DEEP INSIDE YOU LIES—

OH? LET'S SEE!

P-PLAYING WITH DOLLS SURE IS FUN!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Have you been good?

I'M BACK!

DOOM

UTTER CHAOS ?!!

Whatever that means, it sounds dire.

WHAT ON EARTH ...?

TREMBLE

WELL, THAT'S...

THAT'S BECAUSE THE BAD GUY DID HIS ROLLING SWEEP ATTACK AND KILLED THEM ALL.

TREMBLE

WHY DID YOU SCATTER THE DOLLS AND... BURY THEM?!

I JUST... MIXED THEM ALL UP.

SHUDDER

W-WHAT IS THIS...?

I'VE NEVER SEEN A CASE LIKE THIS BEFORE!

NO, THIS IS MY FAULT. DID I NOT SEE IT, OR DID I NOT WANT TO SEE IT? THIS IS MY FAILURE... AS A PARENT AND A SPY!

BUT TO SEE THEM BURST OUT OF HER NOW, IN THIS MORBID SPECTACLE ...

IN HER OWN CHILDLIKE WAY, SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING HARD TO SUPPRESS THOSE FEELINGS.

FLUSH

BUT OF COURSE, BEING PULLED FROM AN ORPHANAGE AND INTO THE HOME OF A STRANGER WOULD BE AN EXTREME SOURCE OF STRESS!

SHE'S HAD ME SO WRAPPED AROUND HER FINGER I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE!

PAPA, IT'S JUST ...

NO, WAIT.

URK ...

Y-YAY!

SHALL WE HEAD HOME NOW?

MAYBE WE CAN STOP AT A BOOKSTORE AND BUY THE NEW *SPY WARS* ON THE WAY?

HEH

SHE NEEDS IMMEDIATE CARE!

THIS ...

MEMO

PAPA, WAIT, THAT'S...

FLIP

...ABOUT YOUR SPY JOB!

HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING GOOD NOTES?

AND THEN AFTER DINNER WE CAN WORK ON YOUR REPORT TOGETHER.

OH!

THIS IS... UM...

I'LL WORK HARD AND WRITE THE REPORT MYSELF.

It'll be okay!

OH? THAT'S WONDERFUL! GOOD GIRL, ANYA!

GONG...

...IS COMPLETELY UNINTELLIGIBLE!

Even with my talent for ciphers...!

MAMAAA! WE'RE BAAACK!

THE WAY HE PUNCHES AND KICKS AND LEG SWEEPS HIS PATIENTS IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!

YOR, PLEASE!

WORF

PAPA DOES VIOLENCE?

NOW, YOR, THAT'S ONLY FOR EXTREME CIRCUM-STANCES ...

TREAT!

HIS WHAT?

Welcome home!

DID YOU GET TO SEE LOID PERFORM-ING HIS INCREDIBLE CONCUSSIVE THERAPY?

DONNG

MM. YOU DID A MOST ELEGANT JOB OF CONVEYING YOUR FEELINGS IN THAT REPORT.

NEXT IS ANYA FORGER. PLEASE BEGIN.

CLAP CLAP CLAP

...AND I REALIZED THAT ONE DAY, I WANTED TO DO THE SAME JOB TOO.

The end.

CLATTER

SPY-CHIATRIST. THAT MEANS HE'S A FEELINGS DOCTOR.

MY PAPA IS A SPY...

So noble. ♡

HE SAYS HE WANTS TO SAVE EVERYONE WHO HAS HAD A HARD TIME BECAUSE OF THE WAR.

TO BRING PEACE TO HIS PATIENTS' MINDS, MY PAPA STAYS UP ALL NIGHT AND TAKES ANTACIDS WHILE WORKING VERY, VERY HARD.

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM YOU, LOID FORGER.

Targets ...?

TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON TRUST, HE CAREFULLY OBSERVES HIS TARGETS.

CANDY? IS THAT JARGON FOR A BRIBE?!

CHATTER

THEY PASS OUT CANDY TOO.

?!

CHATTER

HE EVEN PLAYS GOLF AT HIS JOB AND USES A SECRET ESCAPE ROUTE.

PAPA IS VERY DETERMINED TO MAKE CONNECTIONS.

LOID FORGER ?!

I HEARD THAT SOMETIMES HE EVEN PUNCHES AND KICKS HIS PATIENTS.

WHEN SUMMONED TO THE SCHOOL, LOID TALKED HIS WAY OUT OF THINGS WITH HIS INCREDIBLE EQUIVOCATION SKILLS.

I JUST GOT A COLD SHIVER ALL OF A SUDDEN...

SHUDDER

IS SOMETHING WRONG, TWILIGHT?

SPY×FAMILY